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Orcuttia Californica, Vasey.

species, and most unlike any other American *Erysimum*. It is a broad, matted, evergreen shrub, the dead foliage of one or two preceding seasons firmly persistent still, on all the branchlets. Our specimens are mostly in leaf only, the flowering season having been perhaps six months past. One specimen was found partly in flower, and with a few clusters of well matured pods which had not yet shed their seeds.

A New Genus of Grasses.

BY DR. GEO. VASEY.

(PLATE LX.)

Orcuttia.—Tribe FESTUCEÆ, Sub-tribe SESLERIEÆ. Panicle simple; spikelets sessile, alternate, many flowered, compressed, upper ones crowded; empty and flowering glumes much alike, green and thickish, broad, 3 to 5-lobed, unawned, strongly many nerved; palet equaling its glume, hyaline, narrow, green on the strongly angled keels; anthers 3, styles 2, filaments and styles at length projecting beyond the flower.

O. CALIFORNICA.—Plant dwarf, 2 to 4 inches high, annual; growing in small clusters of 10 to 20 or more culms from one root; culms variable in length in the same cluster, generally producing some small flowering branches from the lower joints; leaves 2 or 3, the sheaths open and inflated, striate; ligule obsolete; blade rather rigid, about 1 inch long, acuminate; leaves and sheaths sparsely pubescent; panicle about 1 inch long, simple, usually of 4 to 6 alternate sessile spikelets, the lower 2 or 3 rather distant, the upper ones crowded; spikelets 5 to 10 flowered, empty glumes sparsely pubescent, broad, about 2 lines long, scarious-margined, mostly 3 lobed, the 2 outer lobes longer, the lobes each three-nerved; flowering glumes a little exceeding 2 lines long, with 5 nearly equal, acute lobes, each lobe three-nerved; palet as long as its glume, hyaline, narrow, strongly keeled, dentate at apex.

Sometimes several spikelets are clustered together at the apex of the culm, with only one pair of empty glumes for all. A dwarf grass collected near San Quentin Bay, Lower California, by Mr. C. R. Orcutt, an ardent young naturalist of San Diego, Cal., for whom the genus is named.